

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SADDLE RIVER PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2021 – 7:00PM

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Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the meeting was held via Zoom.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Nazzaro, Members: Boyajian, Broer, Burgis, Miao, Weiss (by phone)

**ABSENT:** Barry, Council Liaison Azzariti

**GUESTS:** Scott Levy, Borough's Landscape Architect

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

**SUNSHINE LAW:** Chairperson Nazzaro read the Sunshine Law statement.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Louis Miao was sworn in as a member of Parks and Rec with a term expiration of 12/31/25.

Since the Borough's Landscape Architect, Scott Levy, was in attendance, Chair Nazzaro addressed the matter of memorial tree plantings as the first matter. She invited Mr. Levy to address the board.

Mr. Levy suggested using trees such as Japanese Scholar (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) which is a canopy tree, maple, oak, dogwood, and/or cherry. Cost varies between \$300-\$1000 and they have to be maintained.

In addition to Rindlaub Park, Chair Nazzaro thought that flowering trees at the corner of W. Saddle River Rd. and E. Allendale (former Exxon property) would look nice.

Mr. Weiss said he likes the way the pear trees look in Ho-Ho-Kus. Mr. Levy agreed they are beautiful trees, but cautioned that when they mature, sometimes they tend to break at the crotch.

Chair Nazzaro thought that the grassy pond area (West Rd.) would also be a good place to plant trees. Mr. Levy will look at this area.

Discussion turned to the logistics of residents choosing trees and payment options. Mr. Levy suggested that in order to avoid haphazard plantings, the Borough should designate where to plant the trees and residents can choose which one they want to purchase. Mrs. Burgis agreed stating that when she served on the council in another municipality, the borough planted trees and residents chose the ones they wanted. Plaques were limited to 3 styles which the residents could choose from.

Mr. Boyajian will look into the styles and costs of plaques.

Other suggestions included park benches and personalized pavers.

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The next step is for Mr. Levy to go out and survey the park, and other locations mentioned. Chair Nazzaro and Mrs. Burgis will join him.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Weiss moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Burgis.

All in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S):**

**Northern Highlands Jr. Football & Cheerleading Assoc.  
8/2/21 – 11/30/21  
Various Dates and Times**

Chairperson Nazzaro invited members to comment on the application.

Mr. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Mr. Broer, to approve this application. All in favor.

**Ho-Ho-Kus/Saddle River Softball League (Men's League)  
4/11/21-6/27/21  
9/12/21 – 11/21/21  
Sundays 8:30 am to 11:45 am**

Chairperson Nazzaro invited members to comment on the application.

Mr. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyajian, to approve this application. All in favor.

**Highlands Travel Baseball  
3/15/21-7/31/21  
Mon-Fri 4 pm to 9 pm  
Sat 8 am – 9 pm  
Sun 10 am – 9 pm**

Chairperson Nazzaro invited members to comment on the application.

Discussion ensued about changing Sunday start time at 12 noon because Ho-Ho-Kus/Saddle River Softball League (Men's League) has the field until 11:45 am on Sundays. All agreed.

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Mr. Broer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weiss, to approve this application. All in favor.

**Ho-Ho-Kus Saddle River Baseball and Softball Assoc.  
3/15/21-6/30/21  
Mon-Fri 4 pm to 9 pm  
Sat 8 am – 9 pm  
Sun 10 am – 9 pm**

Chairperson Nazzaro invited members to comment on the application

Discussion ensued about changing Sunday start time at 12 noon because Ho-Ho-Kus/Saddle River Softball League (Men's League) has the field until 11:45 am on Sundays. All agreed.

Mrs. Burgis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weiss, to approve this application. All in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chair Nazzaro reported that the Mayor and Council received the Park and Rec's request for money to improve tennis courts. At this time, the governing body is undecided but will explore grant funding.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A former resident of Saddle River wishes to have a wedding luncheon in September somewhere in town. Mrs. Kirkpatrick will gather more information and report back at a later time.

(Mayor Kurpis and Vanessa Nienhouse, Borough Clerk, joined the meeting at 7:37 pm.)

The Mayor said Parks and Rec and Environmental Commission should have a voice in the development of the former Exxon site (intersection of W. Saddle River Rd. and E. Allendale Rd.) especially since there are plans for the park to expand to that area.

Chair Nazzaro provided the Mayor with a summary of Mr. Levy's earlier comments regarding tree plantings.

Mayor suggested a Memorial Walk at Rindlaub Park with row of dogwood trees or alternate between dogwood and cherry trees.

Mayor explained that prior to the Exxon gas station, there was a blacksmith shop and the hope was to build a structure to recreate the historical nature of the site. Using an

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original schoolhouse that is currently located on Chestnut Ridge Rd. and moving it to the site. The plans include building a barn next to it for rescue horses.

There are currently plans underway for a bridge to cross over Saddle River and create a path from Rindlaub Park to W. Saddle River Rd./E. Allendale Rd. and across the street to Barnstable Court.

Discussion turned to the Mayor giving background history of the town and the genesis of 2 acre zoning in Saddle River.

Mrs. Burgis stated that Saddle River is at a precipice and there is not much time to put plans into action. Grant funding should be investigated.

Mayor spoke about the positive effects of the Arts Council and how the organization has raised and donated money to underprivileged communities.

Mayor Kurpis explained that there is an idea to host a Farmers Market behind Marker House. The plan is to move a historic building located in town to behind the Marker House which will serve as a backdrop for the Farmers Market.

Mayor spoke about Saddle River Derby Day in 2022 or 2023 – contests for best hats for ladies and girls, photos of horses, bourbon tasting. It is only in the conceptual phase for now, but Parks and Rec can serve as the ambassador to these types of events.

Trying to bring multicultural events together – International Day at Bishop House or Rindlaub Field.

Mayor said inside of Marker House is beautiful and should be utilized more by the town. Suggested Parks and Rec have an office there. He suggested reaching out to Laurel Epstein for her ideas about the Marker House.

Spread the word and get other people involved.

Oldest structure in town at the intersection of ESRR and E. Allendale Rd. (house for sale)

Jon Kurpis, Historian, wants to have lectures at the Bishop House once COVID restrictions are over.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

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At 8:26 pm, Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Broer, with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kirkpatrick, Secretary  
Parks & Recreation Commission